



October 20, 2014

Dear Property Owner,

Enclosed is a public information flyer the Town of Firestone has provided to all of its water users through this mailing. Since you are an owner and the Town provides water for your property we are requesting that this flyer provided be distributed to everyone at the property. If you are unable to distribute this flyer the Town asks that you provide us with the names and mailing address, so we are able to provide this flyer to them. If you have any questions please contact Town Hall at 303-833-3291. The Town thanks you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Julie Pasillas
Senior Administrative Specialist
Town of Firestone

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

Public Water System ID: CO0162476

System Name: Town of Firestone

Our system found elevated levels of lead in the drinking water in some homes/buildings. Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Please read this information closely to see what you can do to reduce lead in your drinking water.

Health Effects of Lead. Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

Sources of Lead

Lead is a common metal found in the environment. Drinking water is one possible source of lead exposure. The main sources of lead exposure are lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust or soil, and some plumbing materials. In addition, lead can be found in certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics. Other sources include exposure in the work place and exposure from certain hobbies (lead can be carried on clothing or shoes).

New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to eight percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, plumbing fixtures labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified may only have up to two percent lead. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

When water is in contact with pipes or plumbing that contains lead for several hours, the lead may enter drinking water. Homes built before 1986 are more likely to have plumbing containing lead. New homes may also have lead; even "lead-free" plumbing may contain some lead. EPA estimates that 10 to 20 percent of a person's potential exposure to lead may come from drinking water. Infants who consume mostly formula mixed with the lead-containing water can receive 40 to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water.

Don't forget about other sources of lead such as lead paint, lead dust, and lead in soil. Wash your children's hands and toys often as they can come into contact with dirt and dust containing lead.

Steps You Can take to Reduce Your Exposure to Lead in Your Water

1. ***Run your water to flush out lead.*** If it hasn't been used for several hours, run the cold water tap until the temperature is noticeably colder. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes. To conserve water, remember to catch the flushed tap water for plants or some other household use (e.g. cleaning).
2. ***Always use cold water for drinking, cooking, and preparing baby formula.*** Never cook with or drink water from the hot water tap. Never use water from the hot water tap to make formula.
3. ***Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.***
4. ***Periodically remove and clean the faucet's strainer/aerator.*** While removed, run the water to remove debris.
5. ***You may consider investing in a home water treatment device or alternative water source.*** When purchasing a water treatment device, make sure it is certified under Standard 53 by NSF International to remove lead. Contact NSF at 1-800-NSF-8010, or visit the Water Quality Association's website at www.wqa.org.
6. ***Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.*** Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead. Brass faucets, fittings and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free," may leach lead into drinking water. The NSF website at www.nsf.org has more information on lead-containing plumbing fixtures. You should use only lead-certified contractors.
7. ***Have a licensed electrician check your wiring.*** If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electric code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. ***DO NOT*** attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

What Happened & What is Being Done?

During 2014 routine sampling period, six homes built before 1986 exceeded the maximum contaminate level for lead in the drinking water, which is 15ppb.

During the 2015 monitoring period, the town is required to take 40 samples every six months rather than 20 samples every three years & entry point sampling. This will continue until compliance is achieved. All town owned service lines coming into all residents homes are type K copper with no lead services. The Town of Firestone purchases treated water from Central Weld County Water District. Water is delivered to the Tri-Town area & several other communities through transmission lines from Carter Lake.

For More Information

For more information call us at 303-833-3544, or visit our website at www.firestoneco.gov.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at <http://www.epa.gov/lead> or contact your health care provider.

Notice Provided by: The Town of Firestone

Date: 10/20/2014

Firestone Routine Water Sampling Detects Lead in Homes' Internal Water Supply

Town Water Supply Safe

FIRESTONE, Colorado – Ongoing water testing conducted by the Town of Firestone has discovered that six homes built before 1986 have water within the home's internal plumbing with high lead levels. The lead levels found within these homes exceeded the maximum contaminate level for lead in the drinking water, which is 15ppb. Similar results in 2012 required the Town to embark on a rigorous sampling process. Recent tests have prompted the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to require the Town to take 40 samples every six months in 2015, rather than 20 samples every three years, as well as entry point sampling.

Firestone residents should rest assured that the Town water supply is safe. All Town-owned service lines coming into residents homes are type K copper with no lead services. In addition, backflow devices within the system are designed to prevent contamination from residents' internal water plumbing into the Town's system. The Town purchases treated water from Central Weld County Water District, which is delivered to the Carbon Valley area and several other communities through transmission lines from Carter Lake.

The Town of Firestone is concerned about the health of their residents because lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters your body from drinking water or other sources, especially for pregnant women and children 6 years and younger. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

There are steps people can take to reduce their exposure to lead in their water:

- Run water for 15 to 30 seconds to flush lead from interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking, if it hasn't been used for several hours.
- Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.
- Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead.
- Look for alternative drinking water sources or treatment of water. People may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter.
- Test water for lead. You can obtain a list of certified drinking water laboratories through the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment to find out how to get your water tested for lead.
- Get children's blood tested. Contact a local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about exposure.
- Identify and replace plumbing fixtures containing lead.

For more information about the Town of Firestone's Public Water System, ID CO0162476, call 303-833-3544 or visit www.firestoneco.gov/water and click on Water Quality Report and Testing for details on how to test water for lead or for more information about lead in water. For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home/building and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead/ or contact a health care provider.